



Earth Day is April 22

An “uprising” happened on April 22, 1970.

Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, was tired of the gas crisis, the air pollution from factories and vehicle emissions, and the toxic waste found in water resources. On April 22, 1970, Senator Nelson and national coordinator Denis Hayes started Earth Day, an environmental dialogue that included nationwide rallies and protests. More than 20 million people were part of this campaign, which led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and approval of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts. In 1990, Earth Day went global, engaging 200 million people and 141 countries.

Spring is on its way-and that means Earth Day will be making its 35th appearance on April 22. Earth Day has served as a reminder of our Earth and its irreplaceable resources. This year's theme is “Protecting Our Children's Health and Our Future”. Keeping this pledge in mind, the focus will be on the health and education of our children. The Earth Day Network is comprised of nongovernmental organizations, government groups, teachers, and faith-based groups, among others who value natural resources and biodiversity.

Features:

Earth Day

April 22

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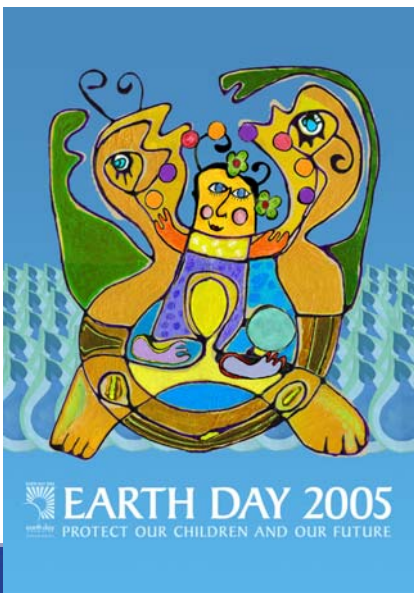
•Sustainable Watch

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The Earth Day Network Web site features sites relating to energy, environment, forests, water, and biodiversity. There are descriptions of ongoing Earth Day campaigns and future endeavors of the group. There is even a site that measures an individual's ecological footprint, as well as an Educator's Network that includes lesson plans for children K-12. Traditionally, there have been several events around the Denver Metropolitan area and Boulder during the week of April 22. The Web site, <http://www.earthday.net/default.asp> can direct you to some of those activities.



Sustainable Watch

In January, NREL's D.C. office building received an energy efficiency boost. The building's property management company, Hines Property Management, installed energy saving motion sensors on the lights in common and tenant areas of the building. The existing light switches were replaced with new switches which detect motion and shut off in its absence. These switches can be adjusted to shut off the lights at a certain time and the majority of them have "dual-technology" that sense sounds as well.

In 2001, the building underwent a lighting retrofit project and the property management company thinks that the addition of these new sensors will "bring a further level of energy efficiency and conservation as we strive to improve our efficiency in utility consumption". We appreciate the efforts of property management companies like Hines who believe their businesses should include wise sustainability practices.



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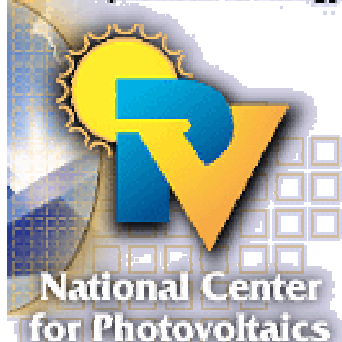
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KUDOS

U.S. Department of Energy



The National Center for Photovoltaics (NCPV – PV Applications) supports and organizes many events, including the Solar Decathlon. In 2002, the PV group powered the organizers' equipment using only the energy from their PV trailers and a B100- fueled generator that was donated by the United States Department of Agriculture. They also replaced the incandescent bulbs in the tent with compact fluorescent bulbs. For the Decathlon in 2005 (and other future events), they are modifying one PV trailer by adding a 12kW diesel generator that can be filled with B100 biodiesel.

Thanks to Byron Stafford for submitting highlights of the PV group's sustainability efforts. If you would like Sustainable NREL to highlight your center's activities, please e-mail Susan Huffnagle, susan_huffnagle@nrel.gov and we will feature these activities in future newsletters.

Quick Tip:

Wondering what to do with those old electronics?

Millions of unwanted electronic equipment is discarded each year. Ebay and other companies such as Apple, Dell Gateway, and IBM are members of the Rethink Initiative. This initiative offers solutions on how to reduce ewaste by connecting users with idle electronic equipment. You can now sell, donate, or recycle old equipment on the Rethink Web site. If you have any old equipment that is collecting dust in your garage, this may be a great alternative to sending it to the land fill. Check out the Web site at <http://pages.ebay.com/rethink/index.html> for details. Thanks to Deb Beattie for this information.



For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/